

**ACTS AND RESOLUTIONS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF
GEORGIA 1994**

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RALPH "COUNTRY" BROWN HIGHWAY — DESIGNATED.

No. 102 (House Resolution No. 961).

A RESOLUTION

Honoring Ralph "Country" Brown and designating the Ralph "Country" Brown Highway; and for other purposes.

WHEREAS, during the late 1940s and early 1950s, Ralph "Country" Brown was the electrifying and beloved centerfielder for the Atlanta Crackers baseball team, one of the country's finest minor league teams of any era; and

WHEREAS, a natural athlete, he excelled in both football and baseball as a youngster in his hometown of Summerville in Chattooga County, Georgia; and

WHEREAS, after fine-tuning his baseball skills while playing for the United States Army team for four years during World War II, he began his professional career in 1946 in Tampa, Florida, where he set a baseball record of 13 hits in 13 at bats, a record which still stands in both the minor and major leagues; and

WHEREAS, he arrived in the City of Atlanta 1948 to play for the Atlanta Crackers and his natural flair and explosive speed made him a fan favorite; and

WHEREAS, memories abound of "Country" roaming centerfield in fabled Ponce de Leon Park, making plays around and under the famous Magnolia tree, stealing bases, and drag bunting like no other player before or since; and

WHEREAS, he batted .338 in 1948 and .313 in 1949 for the Atlanta Crackers and his lifetime average in 1,069 Southern Association games was .297; and

WHEREAS, in honor of his spectacular baseball career and in tribute to his indelible contributions to baseball legend and lore, Ralph "Country" Brown was inducted into the Georgia Sports Hall of Fame on February 12, 1994, the first Atlanta Cracker so honored; and

WHEREAS, Ralph "Country" Brown currently serves as magistrate of the Magistrate Court of Chattooga County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY that the members of this body honor Ralph "Country" Brown for his contributions to the sport of baseball and congratulate him on his deserved induction into the Georgia Sports Hall of Fame.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that that portion of U. S. Highway 27 between the city limits of the City of Summerville and the city limits of the City of Trion is designated the Ralph "Country" Brown Highway.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Transportation is authorized and directed to place and maintain appropriate markers so designating said highway.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the commissioner of transportation and to the Honorable Ralph "Country" Brown.

Approval Date: Approved April 14, 1994.